

INDIAN EXHIBITS

MARKS NEW AGRICULTURAL ERA



CATO Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is cooperating with the Mitchell Corn Palace officials this year in the big Indian exhibit. He has a two-fold object, the first of which is to assist the Corn Palace, and the second is to demonstrate graphically the kind of work that the progressive Indians of South Dakota are doing, and bring to the attention of visitors this work; also the fact that there are classes among the Indians, the same as among other races of people.

Before Mr. Sells adopted this method of showing the fruits of the Indians' labors, about the only idea that many people had of Indians was obtained from visits to "Wild West" shows, where the nonprogressive class, in paint and feathers, gave fake dances, according to the directions of their employers, at so much per day. Such exhibitions have passed, and agricultural and commercial products by Indians have taken their places.

Thousands of acres of South Dakota land is owned and being farmed by progressive Indians on the different reservations, and Mr. Sells, as head of the Indian department for the Federal Government, is insisting on more and better farming.

Some idea of the extent of this work can be gathered from the size of the reservations represented in the exhibits in the Corn Palace.

The Pine Ridge Agency has about 7,000 Indians. Yankton agency has about 1,800 Indians, and the Cheyenne River agency has nearly 4,000 Indians. The balance of the exhibit is taken from the different Indian schools and agencies in the state, and represents about 20,000 Indians, exclusive of those named.

R. R. Spurrier assembled and placed the Pine Ridge exhibit; E. E. McNeilly, the Yankton agency display; and C. L. Johnson, the Cheyenne River Agency exhibit. Acting under orders from Commissioner Sells, Superintendent F. E. Brandon, of Lower Brule, who had organized the work in Oklahoma and South Dakota, for the federal government, is completing this year's work here. He has placed similar exhibits at the South Dakota State Fair, Oklahoma State Fair, International Dry Farming Congress, Mitchell Corn Palace, and others of importance.

There is no financial gain in preparing these exhibits, which are purely educational and illustrative of the work being done for the Indians, in helping them to help themselves. They show the progress